

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 34 is currently amended, claim 73 has been added, and claim 42 has been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 34-37, 40-41, 43-47, 49-55, 61-65 and 73 are pending, and claims 1-33, 38-39, 42, 48, 56-60 and 66-72 have been canceled.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this amendment. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 34-37, 42-47 and 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi (WO 92/19488). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that the finger contact projection is structured such that the shift control device is operated by placing two fingers or a finger and a thumb on opposite sides of the finger contact projection such that the rotational axis is disposed between the two fingers or the finger and the thumb. New claim 73 also contains this feature.

Higuchi discloses a bicycle gear change lever comprising a lever shaft (7) and a control lever (8) that extends away from lever shaft (7). Lever shaft (7) is disposed within and fixed to a housing (6b), wherein lever shaft (7) forms a rotational axis for control lever (8). The device is operated by manipulating control lever (8). Clearly, the shift control device is not operated by placing two fingers or a finger and a thumb on opposite sides of control lever (8) such that the rotational axis formed by lever shaft (7) is sandwiched between the two fingers or the finger and the thumb.

Claims 34-37, 40, 41, 44, 49-51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler (US 3, 965,763) in view of Higuchi. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 34 has been amended to include the feature of claim 42, which was deemed allowable over these references.

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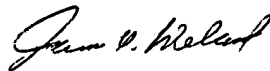
Claims 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Higuchi and White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed because of ultimate dependence of claims 54 and 55 from claim 34.

Claims 61-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Higuchi and Knop (US 3,766,793).

This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing the Wechsler and Higuchi obviousness rejection, together with the reasons noted in applicant's previous responses to this basis for rejection.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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